



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: CAT/Follow-up

4 June 2019

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture, I have the honor to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the second periodic report of Saudi Arabia, in accordance with the Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of the 57th session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 52 and Corr.1) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on follow-up to the recommendations on: corporal punishment, including the case of Ra'if Badawi; reprisals against human rights defenders and journalists; and, the death penalty (see paras. 11, 13, 20 and 43, respectively)

On 11 December 2018 a reminder was sent to your Permanent Mission, observing that the information sought by the Committee had not yet been provided. In addition, the Committee requested the State party to submit additional information, inter alia, on the measures taken to: ensure that a prompt, effective and impartial investigation is undertaken into allegations that high-level officials were involved in the torture and extrajudicial execution of Jamal Khashoggi; and, to investigate allegations that human rights activists Loujain al-Hathloul, Iman al-Nafjan, Aziza al-Yousef, Samar Badawi, Nassima al-Sada, Mohammad al-Rabe'a and Dr. Ibrahim al-Modeimigh had been arbitrarily detained and tortured or ill-treated in Dhabhan prison.

At its 66th session, held in April-May 2019 in Geneva, the Committee noted that no such information had been received. Therefore, the Government of Saudi Arabia is encouraged to provide as soon as possible any information which may contribute to the Committee's analysis of the progress made regarding the specific issues of concern. A Word electronic version of the reply should be sent to the Secretariat of the Committee against Torture (cat@ohchr.org).

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H. E. Mr. Abdulaziz Alwasil
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to the United Nations Office at Geneva
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I should also be grateful to meet with a representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the 67th session of the Committee, to be held from 22 July to 9 August 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, to discuss the matters set out above. I look forward to the Permanent Mission's advice of a mutually convenient time for this meeting. In this regard, you are invited to contact Mr. Patrice Gillibert, Secretary of the Committee against Torture (pgillibert@ohchr.org; phone: +41 22 91 793 32).

The Committee looks forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the authorities of Saudi Arabia on the implementation of the Convention.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



P.P. Abdelwahab Hani
Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Committee against Torture